



By understanding all of the facts, you have the knowledge that is needed to make the right decisions in order to take responsibility for your life!

Save A Life, Save A Friend, Save Yourself

Take a stand against drunk driving! It only takes one person to stand up for what's right, and the rest of the crowd will follow.

- Do NOT get into the car with someone who has been drinking.
- If you see someone who has been drinking, take his/her keys away. Remember, friends don't let friends drink and drive.
- If you find yourself in an environment where your peers are drinking, call a friend, call a cab, or call your parents to come pick you up.
- To report suspected substance-impaired drivers on the highway, dial #77 on your cellular phone to reach the Virginia State Police. Be prepared to give the location, direction of travel, description of any suspect vehicle and license number and description of the situation prompting the call.
- Buckle up every time you get in a car. It's your best defense against drunk drivers.

You're taking responsibility and it shows in the facts!

Drinking and driving is a preventable crime. This brochure includes facts and statistics on the prevalence of drinking and driving, Virginia state laws that protect against it and tips on becoming smarter, safer and more responsible with your life.



SOURCES:

American Journal of Public Health,
DMV, NHTSA, ncadd.com



www.abc.state.va.us



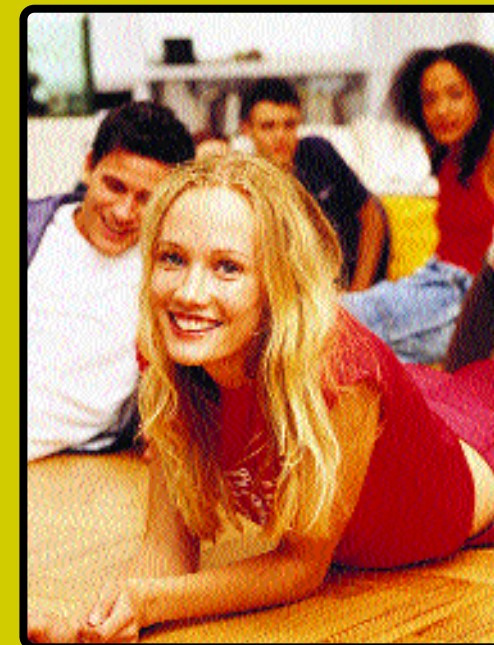
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If you have any questions about the information mentioned in this brochure, please contact Education at the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, (804) 213-4688.

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JUST THE FACTS: Drinking & Driving Prevention



**Taking Responsibility
for Your Life and Future**



Taking Responsibility

Young adults are taking more responsibility for their lives and choices, and it shows in the facts.

Young people, age 16-20, are more likely than any other age group to use positive peer pressure, when hosting a social occasion where alcohol is served, to try to prevent their guests from drinking and driving.

Keep Up The Good Work! ✨

The following statistics prove that most of you are taking responsibility for your life and future.

- In 2001, the total percent of 16-20 year-olds involved in a fatal alcohol-related crash was 26%. This is a 14% decrease from 40% in 2000.
- The percent of teenagers nationwide who drove after drinking alcohol is down 18.9%.
- The percent of teenagers nationwide who rode with a driver who had five or more drinks is down 13.5%.
- Since 1989, less than half of youth motor vehicle fatalities have been alcohol-related. Drinking and driving is no longer the leading cause of death for teenagers. However, motor vehicle crashes remain so.
- The alcohol-related traffic fatality rate for youth has been cut by over half since 1988 from 19 to nine deaths per 100,000 youth. The rate in 1998 is the lowest since record keeping began in 1982.

Join your peers...
take a stand against
drunk driving!



The Impact of Drinking & Driving

Taking responsibility behind the wheel could save many Virginia teenagers each year.

- In 2001, 34 Virginia teenagers, ages 15-19, were killed in alcohol-related crashes, 3.64% of the total (935) traffic fatalities.
- 1,110 teenagers, ages 15-19, were injured in alcohol-related crashes in Virginia in 2001, 1.38% of the total (80,187) traffic injuries.

Although many young adults are listening, we still have a lot of work to do to influence others to take responsibility.

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that minimum drinking age laws have saved 18,220 lives since 1975.
- All states and the District of Columbia have 21-year-old minimum drinking age laws. In 1998 alone, these laws saved 861 lives.
- Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is the amount of alcohol present in the bloodstream. As of June 1998, all States and the District of Columbia have set a BAC limit of .02 or lower for drivers under the age of 21 (Zero Tolerance Laws).

Community
participation
plays a key role
in drinking &
driving prevention. ✨

Alcohol-Related Crashes & Youth

The following shows the consequences of drinking and driving. It's a matter of life and death.

- The greatest number of youth fatalities occur in June, July and August. The fewest occur in January through April.
- Approximately three times as many young people die in alcohol-related crashes, per day, on weekends than on weekdays.
- Of the Virginians convicted of DUI in 2001, 83.68% were male and 15.92% were female.
- Per mile driven, 16-year-old drivers have the highest rate of fatal crash involvement by a wide margin.
- For every 100,000 licensed drivers, young drinking drivers are involved in fatal crashes at approximately twice the rate of drivers who are 21 and older.

Understanding Alcohol's Effects

The way the body reacts to alcohol depends on the person's gender, weight, rate of alcohol consumption and mood. The following describes only some of the effects alcohol can have on the body.

Alcohol:

- is absorbed directly into the bloodstream, which means the entire body becomes impaired.
- alters your ability to make decisions.
- impairs your judgment.
- gives a false sense of self-confidence.
- delays reaction time.
- impairs motor skills, like coordination and balance.
- greatly reduces your inhibitions, making you do things you would never do when sober.



Virginia Laws

Following is a sampling of some of Virginia's laws that are contributing to the decline of alcohol-related traffic deaths. ✨

- Virginia's ZERO TOLERANCE LAW makes driving under the influence of any amount of alcohol or drugs a serious criminal offense for drivers **under the age of 21**.
- Any person **less than 21 years of age** whose blood or breath alcohol concentration measures .02 or more but less than .08 is in violation. The court may require one to forfeit one's driver's license to operate a motor vehicle for a period of six months and the court may fine one not more than \$500.
- It is illegal for any person **under the age of 21**, to purchase, possess, or attempt to purchase or possess any alcoholic beverage. Upon conviction, one may face up to 12 months in jail and/or be fined not more than \$2,500. The court shall order a fine of at least \$500 or a minimum of 50 hours of community service and one's driver's license may be suspended for a period of not more than one year.
- Violators using a FAKE ID to establish false identity or false age to purchase alcoholic beverages are guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor, and upon conviction, face a fine of up to \$2,500 and/or one year in jail and a minimum \$500 fine or 50 hours of community service, and can lose one's driver's license for up to one year.
- Anyone (adult or minor) possessing or consuming alcohol on public school property carries a fine of up to \$1,000 and six months JAIL TIME.
- It is illegal for any person to purchase alcoholic beverages for another person who is **less than 21 years of age**. If convicted, the court may order jail time for up to 12 months and/or fine up to \$2,500.

